(e) Mergers, if based on the principles of business complementarity and synergy, can be helpful in terms of branch network rationalization, and in improving the competitiveness of the merged entities.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

FDI in International airports

29. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the policy framed for foreign direct investment in building two international airports in Mumbai and New Delhi;

(b) what are the reasons for protests and dharnas by trade union in this regard; and

(c) the measures proposed for a comprehensive look at all the airports that need to be upgraded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Government has decided that maximum permissible limit for foreign direct investment in the Joint Venture Companies for the international airports in Mumbai and New Delhi will be fixed at 49 per cent.

(b) Airports Authority Employee's Union is protesting against the restructuring and modernisation of Delhi and Mumbai airports through Joint Venture route with Private Sector Participation.

(c) Upgradation and Modernisation of airports of Airports Authority of India (AAI) is an on-going process. AAI takes up the works of modernisation and development of airports as necessitated *inter-alia* by the status of passenger facilities and the air traffic requirements.

Upgradation of airports

30. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade those airports which are not upto the standard of world class airports;